(a) the current status of the 2000 MW Thermal power plant under National Thermal Power Corporation foundation stone was laid in 1999 at Raudwa in Chatra district of Jharkhand State;

(b) whether NTPC intends to complete this project;

(c) if so, by when, and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Jharkhand Government has taken any initiative in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (c) National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has planned to implement North Karanpura Super Thermal Power Project (3x660 MW) near Tandwa in Chatra and Hazaribag district of Jharkhand. For which, the State Government of Jharkhand is to construct dam/ reservoir on river Garhi for supplying water to the project.

The feasibility report for the power project was prepared by NTPC in 2001 and subsequently various statutory clearances/linkages including coal linkage, water commitments/CWC clearance for water availability, environmental clearance from Ministry of Environment and Forests have been obtained.

The feasibility report has been updated and the proposal has also been appraised by independent agency. At present, land acquisition process and development of infrastructural works are under progress.

The project is expected to be commissioned towards the end of Eleventh Five Year Plan Period.

(d) The information is being collected from the Government of Jharkhand.

Load shedding for industries in Maharashtra

2376. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present quantum of load shedding for the industries in Maharashtra;

(b) at what rate the power demand in the State is rising annually;

(c) what long term steps are being taken to save the State industries from collapse; and

(d) by when the Dabhol plant is likely to start functioning and the target of zero load shedding in the State is expected to be achieved?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) There have been no notified power cuts/restrictions on industries in Maharashtra during the month of November, 2005. However, load shedding/restrictions are being carried out on day to day basis depending upon the availability and demand of power.

(b) The annual rate of growth of energy requirement in the State of Maharashtra during 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 over the previous year was 8.3%, 0.9% and 5.4% respectively.

(c) Electricity being a concurrent subject, supply and distribution of electricity in a State is in the purview of the State Government/State Power Utility concerned. Government of India only supplements the efforts of State Government (s) by commissioning power projects through Central Public Sector Undertakings. However, the following assistance has been provided by the Central Government during the current year to the State of Maharashtra to improve the power scenario in the State:

(i) Allocation from central unallocated pool increased to 252 MW from 200 MW *w.e.f.* 04.5.2005.

(ii) Allocation of 60 MW during peak hrs. and 110 MW during off-peak hrs. from NTPC stations in Eastern Region

(iii) Efforts to revive Dabhol Plant.

(iv) With the commissioning of Unit-4 (1x540 MW) of Tarapur Atomic Power Station, 196.5 MW power has been allocated to Maharashtra. (Additional 196.5 MW will be available from Unit-3 (1x540 MW) of the project which is expected to be commissioned during 2006-07).

(d) The total power generation capacity of the Dabhol power plant is estimated to be 2,150 MW. Subject to the availability of LNG, the power

generation from one block (of a total of 3 blocks) is likely to commence by July, 2006 and all three blocks are likely to be declared commercial thereafter by November, 2006. Schemes aggregating to 2,194 MW are likely to be commissioned in Maharashtra during Tenth Plan in State and Private Sectors. In addition, the State of Maharashtra will also get its entitled share from central sector projects which are being set up in this region. With these efforts, the gap between demand and supply is likely to get reduced.

Installation of electronic meter with sensor technology

2377. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that electronic meter with sensor technology installed forcibly by BSES and NDPL in Delhi records consumption of power 150 times more than the normal pulse if there is a faulty wiring on the premises;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has laid down standards for providing separate service cable for individual connections;

(d) if so, what are the reasons for not following the same;

(e) the types of power meter approved by BIS; and

(f) whether it is mandatory to have electronic meter with sensor technology and if not, reasons for installing such meters forcibly by BSES and NDPL?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) No, Sir. Government of NCT of Delhi has informed that the electronic meters installed by discoms are accurate and record consumption correctly;

(b) In view of above the question does not arise;

(c) to (e) Three Indian standards on energy meters covering both electro-mechanical and electronic meters has been published by BIS namely: